EGYPT REVISITED.

BAYARD TAYLOR ON THE SIGHTS IN AND AROUND CAIRO.

IMPASSABLE STREETS-HABITS OF THE MOSLEM POP-ULATION-CHANGE IN THE IDEAS OF THE GOV-ERNING CLASS-THE OLD MOSQUE OF SULTAN HASSAN.

[FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. CAIRO, March 23.- I must begin with the weather -a theme unknown to Egyptian conversation, unless it happens to be very extraordinary, as You cannot say, "What a fine day!" in a country where all normal days are fine; nor exchange predictions when to-morrow, and next week, and next menth, are known in advance by everybody. Egypt has heretofore been a certain refuge to all who are weary of our endless meteorological small talk; but I begin to doubt whether it will continue to remain so. The Mexicans always have said that the Anglo-Saxon race changes the climate wherever it settles. So, here, it almost seems as if the increase of the Frank element and the introduction of Frank civilization have given lawlessness and change to an atmosphere which once seemed calm as the Sphinx

and steady as the Pyramids. For two days past the thermometer has fallen to 40 in the mornings. Day before yesterday it snowed at Suez, and a passenger just arrived from India says that the voyage up the Red Sea, known as a very horror of heat, was painfully cold! We have tried in vain to get even an Arab mangal, or brazier of coals: but the hotel has none to offer. So we put on shawls and overcoats through the day, and go to bed early that warmth may come back under double "Tis the clime of the East, 'tis the land of the sun!" Turn over your Byron, and when found make a note of. Toward evening there is a heavy shower or two, and last night it rained again furiously. The old, unpaved streets thus become almost impassable from mud, and the authorities have invented no better plan than to collect and carry away. The consequence is that the level of the streets is rapidly sinking, and in a few years more the merchants will sit on high banks while their enstomers stand below and bargain. His Highness, the Khedive, it sppears, being engaged in erecting several new palaces in addition to the thirty or forty be already possesses, has no money to spare for the cleansing and paving of Cairo. It is a sad condition, and one which claims our deepest sympathies.

For the past two or three days I have been learning Cairo over again, and the first confusion resolves itself into tolerably definite bounds. A line drawn north and south at the entrance of the Mooskee, the ancient Frank street, separates what is left of the old city from the modern squares and avenues in the west. The latter are thus embraced in an irregular quadrangle, extending to the Nile at the former towns of Boulak and Roda. The first impression made upon the stranger is thus the werst; for the chief botels are near the line of demolition and incomplete restoration which separates the two pertions of the capital. Here, acres of old Saracenic houses are being leveled to the ground, or have left gaps of stone and dust behind them; blocks of growing buildings are unsightly with scaffolding and heaps of prepared material; old trees are cut away, new ones are making efforts to grow, and sun, wind, and dust alternately assail you. Two, three, or at the nimost five years, may see these gaps closed, the streets roofed with shade, the new gardens filled with bowery foliage, and the transition thereby reheved of its present disagreeable features. When that much is accomplished, Cairo may be more attractive than ever.

The old streets seem crowded with life as never before, and here, as in Alexandria, I notice no change of any consequence in the appearance or habits of the Moslem population. The Cairenes were always more telerant of the Franks than the Syrian Arabs or the Turks at Constantinople; but now, when one wears a fez and speaks a little Arabic, they cannot be sure he is not in the Pasha's service, and are courteous as a matter of policy. The ngly women still go closely vailed, and the yo and beautiful seem inclined to adopt the Turkish custom of wearing a thin white gauze, which keeps up the Oriental proprieties, while allowing them to enjoy the new luxury of admiration. I have seen numbers of Pashas' wives and Odalisques-Turkish or Circassian women-riding out in their carriages, with their lustrous eyes and tints of milk and roses scarcely dimmed to the public eye. Some of them were exquisitely beautiful.

Another evidence of a change in the ideas of the governing class may be found in the character of their dwellings. The curiously latticed balconies of earved wood, behind which the women were wont to sit unseen, are no longer constructed; the many windows of the new Italian houses have no more fermidable guard than ordinary Venetian blinds. In place of high stone walls around the gardens there are frequently iron railings; even among the flowers. I am not able to say how far the daughters of the higher class are educated, but since many of them are now able to read and speak French, and are allowed to associate familiarly with European ladies, they must gradually become discon-It will be a long time, however, before any reform of this kind strikes down among the lower orders of the people.

I have almost come to the conclusion that there is no more cheerful and patient race in the world than the Egyptian Moslem. My remembrance of their nature, in this respect, is more than confirmed on seeing them again. The classes who make their living out of strangers are on the watch for a good bargain, of course, but they are easily manageable and much less apt to violate an agreement than the Italians. Even the country children, with their incessant cry of "backsheesh !" their laughing eyes and cheerful acceptance of a refusal, contrast pleasantly with the incessant whine and the " per amore di Dio!" which one hears in Rome and Naples. I have spoken to numbers of Fellahs or tradesmen in the streets. and always receive a courteous and frank answer. If one of the natives happens to be rude, in a crowd, he is generally reproved by the bystanders. Even sudden quarrels among the people are settled with out malice, and you often see two good friends who 15 minutes before were pummeling each other. It is the worst possible policy for a traveler to lose his temper, here; a firm but cheerful bearing will carry him triumphantly through all straits.

I have found one thing quite unchanged—the old avenue of Indian sycamores and acacias leading to the palace and gardens of Shoobra. That is, the trees themselves remain, with their gnarled and twisted gray trunks, their immense snaky arms, and their uninterrupted arch of shade, forming a vista five miles long; but villas and gardens on either side have crept far out over the former fields, and the broad stretches of harvest land over which you once saw the Pyramids and the Mokattam hills have shrunk into scattered patches, destined also to disappear in the course of time. This road is still the favorite drive of an afternoon, and nothing can be more picturesque than its mixture of camels and carriages, dandies and donkeys, chignons and hennastains, stove-pipes and white turbans, salagmaleikoome and ravi-de-vous-voirs.

The magnificence of Shoobra is quite gone, however. The pool in the Kiosh of Fountains is full of water plants; the menagerie of African animals has been transferred to Gezeereh, across the Nile; the ridiculous miniature hill, with its pine trees, looks dismally dilapidated, and the garden has become an ordinary orchard of crange, almond, and peach trees. We did not think it worth while to enter the palace to see a lot of French furniture, so inferior, both in color and design, to the upholstery of Persia or Bagdad. The gardener presented the ladies with bonquets, in which only the gilly-flower was fragrant; to me he gave a button-hole rosebud, which grew only the sweeter as it withered.

A day or two ago, on passing the grand old mosque of Sultan Hassau, we stopped and entered unchallenged. There is something very simple and noble in the interior. A bright-eyed little girl, who gave her name as Zaida, brought us slippers of matting, to wear over our shoes; a very meek attendant wear over our shoes; a very meek attendant accompanied us; another lingered beside the mimbar, or pulpit, but no others of the Faithful were present verted, and you will achieve fame and fortune."

to be shocked by our entrance-if, indeed, such an occurrence shocks them at all new. But the coolness and stillness of the grand inner court, with its four open semi-domes on the sides, its central roof of sky, and its large fountain for ablutions, impressed us with greater solemnity than many an emblazoned Christian cathedral. The perfect simplicity and sincerity of Moslem worship appeals to the Quaker element in my own blood; so, when I enter a mosque, the signs of race and climate and the symbolism of faith fade away, and I only remember that we are fellow-believers in the

One God. Side by side with the pile of Sultan Hassan-the walls of which are beginning to crack dangerouslythe Khedive is building a magnificent mosque of equal proportions, to bear the name of his mother. It is hardly yet sufficiently advanced to enable one to judge of its architectural style; but I venture to say that it will embody the Saracenic fancies of a European architect, and be about as truly Saracenic as the Church of the Madeleine is Greek. Many perns, however, will never detect the difference. Here, all around the base of the Citadel, there is tearing down and building up, with the usual rub-

hish and whirling dust. It was a relief to ride out the Abbasiyeh Gate pass the deserted cemetery under the walls, and issue upon the brown, dry plain, where stand the Tombs of the Caliphs. Here the lonely domes, rippled with patterns of ornament like so many drifts of desert sand, the exquisitely varied forms of the minarets, the empty courts and falling arcades have only the arid hills for a background. A reach of the Nile valley shimmers in the distance like a dark-green lake. Strings of melancholy camels pass, from time to time, and the cries of their drivers sound almost like those of wild birds in the distance. Here the imagination is powerfully stirred, and the vanishing Orient becomes real again.

THE GERMAN ARMY BILL.

ASPECT OF THE CONFLICT BEFORE THE COMPROMISE MEASURE WAS ADOPTED-INFLUENCE OF PRINCE DISMARCK UPON LEGISLATION-THE COURSE OF THE CONSERVATIVES AGAINST THE CHANCELLOR.

ROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. BERLIN, April 9 .- Constitutional Government in Germany at present does not work with remarkable ease. Prince Bismarck is flat on his back with gout or neuralgia or some rheumatic complaint; the Emperor is storming about in the palace like an angry lion; and the Liberals in Parliament are at their wit's end for a solution of the problems before them. Bismarck is like Samson in this, that when he falls, be it only from gout, he drags the whole parliamentary edifice down with him. There is absolutely no one who can represent the executive power authoritatively before Reichstag; and what is worse, no the who can propose a rational escape one from the difficulty. The present system was Bismark's, and was adopted at his personal, urgent solicitation. To amend it now while the author is ill, and because he is ill, seems like taking an ungrateful advantage of bim. who has seen Ristori play Elizabeth will recollect the powerful scene in which the dying Queen struggles between her love of power and the necessity of choosing a successor. The German Chancellor is in just such a dilemma. Shall be consent to a modification of the system, since he can no longer do all his work, or shall he let things drift till he again becomes a bealthy man ?

This problem is chiefly one of organization, but there is one of grave political importance. What is Prince Bismarck's opinion of the pending military bill? It was sent to the Reichstag from the Chancery, over which he presides, and he is, according to his own interpretation of his position, responsible for it. But he has never appeared before House or Committee to defend it, and from the outset has been confined to his chamber. That measure requires a standing army of 400,000 men, a larger number than the Reichstag is at present inclined to concede, and that this provision be voted in perpetuity. This means that the present Reichstag s to abdicate for itself, and at the same time pledge all future Parliaments to vote without question such military budgets as the Government may demand. Said a timid German Liberal to me to-day: "They might as well ask as to abolish the Constitution. It is a hard and bitter alternative which the Government offers to the Deputies, and in dismay they ery for the Chancellor. What says he? He is unwell, and his words lack that preciseness which is

desirable. From 1866 to 1874 Prince Bismarck flattered the liberal aspirations of the Germans with consummate With the pledge of a common German Parlinment proceeding from universal suffrage. he touched a chord of popular feeling which vibrated the more sweetly because it brated for the first time. There had been parliaments of the princes; Bismarck offered one of the people. There were Legislatures in the separate States: he proposed a common legislature for United "Bismarck and Constitutionalism" was as potent a cry in 1870 as "Moltke and victory." The system has had a trial of two years, and it would be interesting to know what Bismarck thinks of the result. The agents of reaction believe they have played their part but exceedingly well. They desired to betray the Chancellor into a dangerous dilemma. He is a sagacious man, but when, in an hour, he signed the pending bill, he could not have foreseen that it would threaten to cost him the support of the Liberals. Now that the matter has gone so far it is easy to divine the past. The young staff officers and the Conservatives managed to convince the Emperor that parliamentarian government was making dan-Bismarck, it was assuming powers which might prove fatal to the country; the army at least must

gerous progress, and that, encouraged by Prince be placed out of the reach of Parliament; the victors of Sadowa and Sedan could not be left to the crude care of a lot of rustic lawyers in plain clothes. otherwise the days of the Empire could be counted This sort of discourse, addressed to the Emperor, fell on willing ears. He asked Prince Bismarck to go before Parliament, in his responsible capacity as Imperial Chancellor, and submit the scheme which the general staff had drafted. To refuse was to forfeit instantly the favor of the Emperor; to obey was likely to cost Bismarck the friendship of the Lib erals. The Chancellor seemed to choose the support of the Court, trusting that the measure would be

carried through and that he would be saved. If Prince Bismarck is not an unusually elastic man, he must now be suffering the pains of remorse. for he is threatened with the loss of all the best Liberals from his support, and if the bill should fail he will be in danger of losing the confidence of his

sovereign. This is certainly a cruel situation. The military party is making good use of the trap which they have caught the great statesman, and of his present indisposition. A sudden attack of catarrh on the part of the Emperor, or events less i grave even than that, might precipitate a crisis.

The sugar duty has been abolished in Great are sugar duty has been abolished in Great Britain because it interfered with the business of the refineries and yielded little revenue. "By mak-ing England," The Economist says, "more and more the great market for sugar we shall increase our business of distribution, while our own business of refining must also be improved by the conveniences which the concentration of business here will af-ford."

The New-England Cotton Manufacturers' Associ The New-England Cotton Manufacturers Association recently held its annual meeting and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, E. A. Straw, Manchester, N. H.; Vice-Presidents, A. D. Lockwood, Providence, R. I.; John C. Palfrey, Lowell, Mass.; Directors, W. P. Haines, Biddeford, Me.; Thomas J. Borden, Fall River, Mass.; John Kilburn, Salem, Mass.; Charles Nourse, Woonsocket, R. I.; A. G. Cumnock, Lowell, Mass.; F. E. Clark, Lawrence, Mass.

Mr. James Baird, a British iron-master, recently pointed out an experimental field for inventors. "In the Bessemer process of converting iron into steel," said he, "all the impurities with the exception of phosphorus can be removed, but that, though it can be nearly all eliminated in the puddling furnace. ains obdurately in the converter. Here, then, is improvement required. Discover some simple effective process of getting rid of phosphorus,

FINE ARTS.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN. FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

[Seventh Article.] We are always sorry when Mr. Huntington drops into Historical painting. We have no one who surpasses bim as a portrait-painter, although there are two or three artists who run nearly neck-and-neck with him, but with subjects like the "Titian showing his picture of the Entombment to Clement VII. and Charles V., at Bologna," he is hopelessly incompetent to deal. His most conspicuous failure in this direction was "The Republican Court of Washington "-a failure so serious, and so generally admitted, that we had hoped the artist would accept the verdict, and make efforts to pluck laurels out of reach. It certainly is no discredit to him have failed, nor is he to be blamed more than another |for thinking he can do something he cannot de. Reynolds was a greater portrait-painter than Mr. Huntington-one of the greatest the world has ever seen-yet we believe he himself held his picture of Count Ugolino and his Sons" to be one of his best works, though it is a cause for thankfulness that he did not meet with a patron to flatter him into further ventures in a similar field. Mr. Huntington's present attempt at historical painting is, so far as we remember, the least successful effort of his in that direction. Yet we can imagine the subject serving pleasantly enough as a framework in which to set, not only portraits of a group of notable men, but also an interesting copy in little of Titlan's famous picture, such as Mr. Huntington is very competent to make. Instead of this we have but little of anything-neither good portraits, nor natural grouping, nor correct architectu a satisfactory suggestion of the picture of the Entombnent. Mr. Huntington is one of the oldest members of the artist profession in our country. He is widely and honorably known in his profession, and to have had one's portrait painted by him is almost as good a patent of nobility as to have had one's ancestor painted by Stuart or by Copley. He was for many years President of the Academy, and, in short, there is every reason why young artists should look upon any picture he may think worthy of sending to the yearly exhibition, and to which the Hanging Committee may assign a place on the line in the principal room, as a work to be carefully studied, and one from which they can surely learn a good deal that will be of use to them. Therefore we think it worth while to examine this picture in detail, and to point out those serious defects and shortcomings that to our mind make it an unsatisfactory performance, unworthy of the master who painted the portrait of Mrs. Tibbits hanging on the same wall only a few feet removed.

In the first place, either these people are too large for the room they are in, or the room is too small for the people. The real difficulty is that the room is too small, although it is evident also that the people are out of proportion both to the room and to one another. It is not common to find in houses of any importance in Italy rooms so small as this one even to-day, and in the old times the art of subdividing rooms was much less practiced than it is now when there is more need of room, but we cannot think that Titian was ever obliged, after Fame had come to him-and she came early-to lodge in an teniresol, and certainly no man of such huge proportions as the great artist shows in Mr. Huntington's picture would ever have hired such a low-studded for comfort. At the time when the Pope and the Emperor paid this visit to Titian, he was a little over 50 years old, and, having managed his affairs well, was living in comfort, and even in luxury, so that we think Mr. Huntington has missed an important artistic opportunity in not spreading himself more in his architecture. Such architecture as there is is all of the artist's own invention; nor do we know where he would have found in Bologua so bad a gothic window as the one that lights this apartment-there being in fact very little gothic architecture in the town, good or bad. And if we must have a window in which our attention is necessarily drawn to the design, might not an additional pleasure have been given us by letting us see out of it a view that would have suggested some place in particular-let us say Bologna for in-stance? At the left of the canvas, Titian, in the well-known dressing-gown, is drawing aside the curtain that has covered the picture of the Entembment, which we believe was not painted until several years later, though that is a matter of no great importance. We may remark, by the way, that it was of this celebrated painting our own Washington Allston gave so striking and poetical a description; "The body of Christ," he said, "is borne to the tomb by his disciples: the ground seems to tremble beneath their tread, and the air is darkened by their grief." Fortunate the artist, whose work meets with such a critic. Titian, who looks much nearer 70 than 53, is of gigantic hight, but his face and head are skillfully painted, and the portrait is well preserved. The Pope's attitude is eminently free and easy, and contrasts rather heartlessly with that of the Emperor, who having found a pin in his chair, is endeavoring, with heroic pride, to conceal his agony, and to appear unconcerned. His manifeffort gives unusual prominence to his historic jaw, which is accurately depicted, and looks larger than Charles's taste was so good in furniture that it may be his painful, abstracted expression of countenance is due rather to the sitting upon an anachronism than to the pin we have imagined to account for it. The most parkable part of this picture, full of surprises, is to be found in the group of ladies at the right. What these ladies may be here for is certainly not very clear. The stout lady in yellow-" silk," shallwe say-or what is the material f for this is one of the points on which Mr. Huntington never enlightens us-this lady is indeed throwing a nonchalant glance at the picture, as much as o say that it is all very well, but she has seen it too often to take a very lively interest in it. Did the artist, when he was drawing in this figure, take the precaution to easure it? It was said of Phidias's Olympian Jove that if he had risen from his seat he would have carried off the roof of the shrine, and we fear that if this sta wart Jano were to get up, it would go hard with the roof of Titian's studio. The conduct of the lady next her is more decidedly reprehensible, for she is not only singing a song to the lute when she ought to be listening to his Holiness's art criticism, but she is refusing to look at an immense picture-book which a delicate young lady is holding up before her, a stout young man meanwhile standing by and letting her hold it, without offering his help. This group, in short, is one of those with which all who are in the habit of looking at Mr. Huntington's pic tures are familiar-a group put in merely for pictorial effect, and having no relation to the subject, nor indeed

any reason beyond a supposed artistic one for being. There has been produced in Paris lately a new play illed "La Jeunesse de Louis XIV.," in which the stage setting of one scene-that in which the Great Monarch, o punish the courtiers who had tried to snub Molière ites the poet to breakfast with him and makes the first nobles wait on them both-has been faithfully copied from Gérome's picture. It is of no importance that the incident may never have happened. Gerome took the story as it existed in the popular legend, and made it real by the most careful study of the King's bedroom at Versailles, by a thoroughness of research into costumes and furniture that added to his reputation as an archæologist, and by consummate skill and painstaking in the numerous portraits that fill the canvas. The grouping is natural and easy; nothing is put in for padding, and it is only plain truth to say that if the scene took place at all it took place almost exactly as Gérome has represented it. Ingres painted the same story, but he was less of a realist than Gérome, and made a composition somewhat more academic than his, out even Ingres took pains to give a faithful study of the room at Versailles, and to make his picture probable. We should not have given so much space to Mr. Huntington's picture, if we had not felt that his example does us all harm in this matter of historical painting. It is the rule and not the exception-this thinking that time and space are of no account in treating historical subjects. We can deal in anachronisms as ich as we like, dress people as we will, bring in all sorts of chairs and tables, and put our characters in all sorts of attitudes, if only we can succeed in making pretty picture. Mr. Huntington is too much of a man and too good an artist to be allowed to do this without rebuse. It may do for the Dubufes, with their absurd Prodigal Sons," and for the Leutzes, and Langs, and Rossiters, but not for him. We omitted in our review of the North Room to speak

of Mr. Wilmarth's "Left in Charge," but we cannot say it gives us much pleasure to return to it. It is a painstaking piece of work, but it is not labor well bestowed that has been given to elaborating this clumsy furniture, ill designed, and, we are sorry say, ill drawn, beside being uncomfortably died together. The little girl who is telling the dog to mind baby is stiff and wooden, and the baby is without form and void. The dog, however, is excellent, and his expression capitally seized. But the pic-ture is far behind the artisa's picture in the last exhibition. Perhaps his ardnous duties as Director of the Academy School of Design prevent his giving the time he ought to his art. We are sorry if this he so, for

Mr. Wilmarth has in him the stoff for an excellent

Mr. F. A. Bridgeman has not sent us from Paris, in hi Bringing in the Corn," a picture that will sustain the reputation he made by his " Country Circus" in the Salon of 1870. He is a pupil of Gérome, and the picture we speak of attracted as much attention as any outside the society of masterpieces by Regnault, Zamacois, and Carolus Duran. That was the year, the reader will remember, of Regnault's "Salome," and of Zamacois's "The Education of a Prince," and it was no small distinction for a young American artist to have his picture singled out as " full of promise in such an assemblage. Since then we have heard nothing of Mr. Bridgeman, and it would appear by his one picture in our exhibition that he sells his good work

Beside the two portraits by Mr. Huntington of Mr. and Mrs. Tibblits in this room there are several good portraits by other hands. Mr. Loop has a capital one, No. 293, and Mr. Page one, of the late Col. Robert G. Shaw, which we could welcome heartily and praise without reserve were it not for the disagreeable mustard-colored background. The wish comes from our heart that Mr. Page could throw some of his freaks and | whims out of the window. How many fine pictures of his they have spoiled! Another good portrait is No. 334, by Mr. George A. Baker. The lace is beautifully painted; our only objection is, that, considering the very becoming, but surely premature, white hair of the lady, the lace. of which there is a profusion, gives too much white to the picture and weakens it. But here are life-like expression, and transcript of character, and excellent drawing, so that there is far more to enjoy than to quar-

Near this is a portrait by Mr. Alonzo Pease, which is no doubt a "counterfeit presentment" to misread Shakespeare of its subject, but of which we should say nothing were it not to ask what it is the artist has thought to put about his sitter's neck ? Can it possibly be meant for lace! If it be, he has much pleasure in store in learning to paint that eautiful material, and we recommend to him the study of the lace in the portrait by Mr. Baker just spoken of, or even in Miss M. R Oakey's "Portrait of a Young Girl," No.92, in the Corridor, where the old blonde lace is suggested with much spirit and appreciation.

Mr. T. Le Clear's "Portrait," No. 278, is a clear, intelligent piece of work, and gains perhaps more than its fair appiause by its neighborhood to Mr. Thomas Hicks's portrait of C. G. Gunther, a picture for which the city has had the pleasure of paying, and which will soon find its proper resting-place with the other por-traits of Mayors in the Chamber of Horrors in the City Hall. We believe the Governor's Room is the receptacle of these contract jobs, and if that functionary can stand them we suppose we can,

Over the large door of the South Room which leads to the Corridor the Hanging Committee has seen fit to hang a picture by Mr. Whistler, that if it were thought best to hang atfall should have been put where it could be fairly seen. We do not think it very wise in Mr. Whistler's friends to have sent so slight a specimen of his work, but it would have been better to have ent it back to Baltimore, whence it was sent by especial request for this exhibition, than to have treated it with disrespect. We have already spoken of Mr. Whistier, but we may say again that he is one of the leading English artists, though an American by birth, and that if he had chosen to send this sketch even to the Royal Academy it would most probably have been hung on the line. It is, we imagine, a study directly from nature, a bit of the Brittany coast, the rocks jutting up from the sand that has blown over them and nearly buried them, and a young peasant giri lying in the cool shadow, sleep by the roar of the near ocean. The simplicity and directness of this sketch make some people smile, but we cannot see why. The artist has shown us here only a study for a picture which, painted as he could paint it, would surely suggest most forcibly and poetically the solitude and silence of this uneauny spot. We wish we could see here one of Mr. Whistier's important pictures. Is it not possible to get the loan of his " White for the next exhibition !

Mr. R. Swain Gifford's "Passenger Boats on the Nile" is, to our thinking, his best picture this year. The time of day is poetically suggested, and the little canvas makes a most agreeable harmony of color. We may ometimes wish that Mr. Gifford would find another land to paint than Egypt, but we must always acknowledge hat he tries to paint it as he sees it, and though we may complain gently of the quantity, we cannot find fault with the quality. Mr. Sonntag, in his "East River in February," makes statements about that familiar water cape that will astonish its friends; surely Bottom was never so translated. This is not the East River at any time of year, nor any river anywhere, and the artist must have been puzzled to give his creation a name.

We suppose we must not hope to have any sculpture in the Sculpture Room. We fare better this year than for many years back with three busts, one by Ward, one by Caiveriy, and one by Launt Taompson; but, though these are elever characteristic works they cannot redeem the room from the reproach of emptiness, and worse than emptiness. Miss Juha Griffin probthe Emperor, who having found a pin in his ir, is endeavoring, with heroic pride, to continuously and to appear unconcerned. His agony, and to appear unconcerned. His ally effort gives unusual prominence to his historic, which is accurately depicted, and looks larger than each in consequence of his struggle with his feelings, and in consequence of his struggle with his feelings.

The deem the comptiness. Miss Juita Griffin probably owes Dr. Fuller Walker a grudge—and has paid they gives unusual prominence to his historic distributions of the second of the continuous and the second of the seco ian Angels." She or he evidently does not be eve that they have bodies. And yet he work has no spirit either. And Mr. John logers is straying out of bounds. His life-size statues mough creditable in motive, and trying to deal near ally with every-day subjects, are not statues at all, they re simply figures in clay, which is quite another thing his figure of a little girl is as good as far as it goes a cla's absurdly overpraised statue of Napoleon at their that is not samplare either nity a lay-figure made use of by the ever mechanic to overhaw with realism, and wan the raises of maccaronic writers and the unthinking rowd. Mr. Rogers has followed a poor model, and weak him a safe and speedy journey back again to the wish him a safe and speedy journey back again to thimbler but happier field of household groups that has given so much pleasure and brought him so much prof

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NOTES.

RELATION OF WATER TO HEALTH .- Dr. Letheby, an eminent English physician and chemist, after de-voting many years to investigation of the properties of ie water introduced into English cities, and to a study the sanitary documents on the subject, is reported to ave come to the conclusion that moderately hard water have come to the conclusion that moderately hard water safer and healthier than soft water. The former, he asserts is not only clearer, colder, more free from air, and consequently more agreeable than soft water, but is used likely to assert organic substances, to sustain the ife of symotic organisms, or to exert solvent proper-tes upon saits of iron or upon leader conducting pipes; he lime saits also exert a beneficial influence upon the supon sonomy, and even protect the system from danthe lime saits also exert a senetarial induces upon animal economy, and even protect the system from dangerous outward influences. The argument is, that the numan body requires for its nourishment and support a supply of certain mineral saits, among which carbonate and phosphate of lime play an important part in building up the compactness of the bones and in other functions, and hard water furnishes these saits.

HAIRY MEN .- An account appears in The finburgh Medical Journal of the two remarkable hairy nen, Russians, who have excited so much interest in Europe. The peculiarity of these individuals is that they ave an excessive growth of hair upon one particular part of the body, namely, the face and neck; on the body and lower extremities there is also a stronger growth of hair; and particularly on the back and arms of the son (the two being father and child) there are growth of hair; and particularly on the back and arms of the son (the two being father and child) there are sundry patches of 0.15 inch to 0.24 inch in diameter, covered with soft yellowish white hair, 0.12 to 0.24 inch ion; The, father has on ins body isolated patches strewn, our not thickly, with hair one-fifth to two inches long. But all this is slight and subordinate compared with the hair growth on the face. The father has only the left evectod in the upper jaw. The son has no teeth, hardly any alveolar process, and the upper lip is very harrow, so that the upper law appears depressed; the father presents the same appearance. Every part of the face and neck, usually covered with down, is in their case coveck, usually covered with down, is in their case cov-red with long hair—even the eyelids—while flowing ocks come out of both nostrils and from the ears.

NEW DIGESTIVE PREPARATION .- According The London Lancet, the experiments made by Dr. Marcy, with a view to preparing meat so as to render it of easy digestion by weak stomachs have been peculiarly eccessful, and the article he produces is of special valu to invalids. Hydrochloric acid and pepsin being the principal natural agents for the digestion of meat in the principal natural agents for the digeston of mean in stomach, Dr. M. considered that these substances might be applied to digest cooked meat in some degree previously to its being eaten, and that, by giving the stomach animal food thus sortened and dissolved, sufferers from disease of nutrition, causing wasting and emaciation—those who can take but little food, and maciation—those who can take our which they have much trouble in digesting, as well as which they have much trouble in digesting, as well as there who are miserably tormented with dyspepsia, there who are miserably tormented with dyspepsia, matter how carefully it be cooked—might be enabled to take a little meat and digest it well, the stomach by this som a light pulpy substance, most of which, when the liquid is allowed to remain undisturbed in a glass, is seen to fall to the bottom. It is, in a great measure, to this substance that the nutritions properties of the preparation are due; but the pulpy mass is so minutely divided and so roft as to be swallowed unperceived.

The Baltimore newspapers chronicle the yage of the bark Aquidneck to Rio Janeiro as the fastst on record. The vessel left the Capes of Virginia on the 30th of January, arrived at Rio Janeiro on the 1st of March (in 30 days), and sailed on her return on the 8th ultimo, reaching Cape Heary on the 6th inst. (in 28 days), and making the round voyage in 65 days and 20 hours, beating the celebrated trip of the bark Lapwing, which made the round voyage, some years ago, in 69 days.

BROOKLYN WATER FRAUDS.

A COMMITTEE'S REPORT NEEDED. THE WATER PURVEYOR'S PETTY SCHEMES FOR OP-PRESSING AND PLUNDERING TAX-PAYERS - A GLANCE AT THE EVIDENCE-SEVEN WORTHLESS WATER-METERS SET IN TURN - THE RHODES

METER PUT IN BY THE RHODES PLUMBER.

The extraordinary powers usurped by the Brooklyn Board of City Works and its subordinates are well exemplified in the case of the water-meter imposttion in which John H. Rhodes, the Water Purveyor, plays a very prominent part. Although many com-plaints have been made to the Board of the way in which he uses his office to oppress tax-payers and to enrich himself, yet the Board of City Works refuses to remove him or to curtail his privileges. " He is the only one who really understands the Water Purveyor's Department," say his allies and friends; and feeling that e is strongly intrenched, he has resumed active warfare upon the rights of others. TRIBUNE readers know all about the patent stop-cocks which he endeavored to foist upon all the property-holders in Brooklyn. He also sought to introduce water-meters which had been approved by him. Daniel L. Northrup, Secretary of the Board of City Works, and he himself, wanted a moiety for every meter set. If this were given them, they would see that no other meter was set in Brooklyn. This proposition was received with disfavor by the manufacturers of the meter, and thenceforward Rhodes would not allow any meters of this pattern or manufacture to be set in the city. The proprietors offered to have the accuracy of their meter tested, but Rhodes peremptorily refused to listen to any such disinterested proposal. Another meter fared better, for he allowed it to be set. His zeal went further than this, for he forced it upon people where it was not needed. The second meter cost about twice as much as the first. Several kinds of meters were tried, much to the disgust of th tax-payers. In one of the most expensive of these, ordered in use about a year and a half since, a brother of a newspaper proprietor was interested, as well as

These facts are derived from the testimony taken by the Aldermanic Committee on Stop-rocks and Water meters, which began its sessions nearly a year ago, but which has never presented a report. As the Com ittee was not a standing one it can have no existence under the new Board. The Chairman of the Committee Alderman Brown, is said to have begun the investiga-tion because his father, who formerly held a position under the Water Board, had been discharged by Rhodes; and it is said that the father was reinstated by Rhodes who feared the result of an investigation into the affairs of his department. Alderman Whitney, another member of the Committee, is an intimate friend of Rhodes. No steps have been taken in the matter during the present session of the Board.

EVIDENCE WHICH HAS EARNED A REPORT. A reporter of THE TRIBUNE has been examining the estimony elicited by the Committee as well as some of he complaints made by property-owners in relation to the meter, which seem to show, first, that Rhodes and Northrup in introducing the meters wished to share in the profits; secondly, that Rhodes was interested in the meters which he allowed to be used; thirdly, that the meters used cost much more, and are less serviceable than the ones which were rejected; and fourthly, that he rejected meters were, according to his own asseruons, really trustworthy instruments.

At the meeting of the Committee held Sept. 26, 1873, Henry F. Reed, a machinist, and superintendent of the manufacture of the rejected meter, testified that he agreed to give Rhodes an interest in the patent under which the meter was manufactured. Rhodes said that he would use his influence for him. Reed got an order for 1,500 meters, and Rhodes claimed that he had furnished the money for them. This was about five years sefore. Reed sold the Water Department 45 meters, for which he received pay. Only two meters of the kind are now in use in Brooklyn, owing to a misunderstandng between Reed and Rhodes. Reed asked permission to use the meters which he manufactures, but it was refused. Rhodes said that he would resign his office rather than set Reed's meters. A man named Bryan has the exclusive right to set all the meters in Brooklyn, and \$70 is charged for the meter. Northrup went to see Reed when he was making his meter. At that time Rhodes was interested in it. Northrup wished to take an interest, but Reed refused to allow him, because, as he said, one was all I could handle at a time." Rhodes offered to give an order to Reed for all the meters wanted, in return for a half interest. Rhodes said his influence and position were equivalent to the other's capital. He wanted, therefore, an unconditional assignment of onehaif, which would be equivalent to the right to the whole, since under it he could go on and manufacture all the meters he wanted. Reed broke off the negotiations be-cause he feared that Rhodes, when he ob-tained half of the patent-right, would manufacture all the meters, and so shut him out altogether.

At a subsequent meeting of the Committee, John C. Keiler, the President of the Company which manufacured the rejected meter, testified that he had offered to furnish the Department with one or a dozen meters to show how they worked, but no opportunity had been given him, though the meter in question, according to the figures of the Department, cost half as much as the meters adopted. It has been charged that many of the neters adopted by Rhodes were found uscless and were sold for old metal. Nearly \$25,000 worth, it appears, were sold in this way. From a number of cases showing the manner in which Rhodes went to work after he got a meter presumably to his liking, two are cited. In one he experimented with various meters, while in the other he refused for a long time to set one which he had ap-

EXPERIMENTS WITH NON-BEGISTERING METERS. It had been the practice of the Water Purveyor, before he introduction of the meters, to estimate the water tax in various ways so as to energe for the amount of water used. In the case of a livery stable the charge was put down as so much per horse. The bill for 1872-3

EFFORTS TO THROW OUT A RIVAL'S METER. George Kelsey, a provision dealer, at No. 153 Classon

ave., was informed by Rhodes, in May, 1873, that a meter would be put on his premises. Having one of Mr. Reed's water-meters, which, as he heard, khodes had favored, Mr. Kelsey asked permission to have it set, but Rhodes peremptorily refused, saying that the meter should not be used in Brookiyn as Mr. Reed had stolen it from him.
"But," said the other, "you have expressed approval
of it." Well, he did not care for that, he would sooner
resign than allow one to be put on. Mr. Kelsey after
this thrade went to the members of the Water Board and
took the meter apart before them in the presence of Col.
Adams, the Engineer of the Board. All pronounced it a took the meter apart before them in the presence of Col. Adams, the Engineer of the Board. All pronounced it a good meter, and Mr. Whiting gave an order to have it set. Northrup carried the order to Rhodes, who still resisted, and again began abusing Mr. Keisey, who had come in. The latter was not slow in retorting, however, and gave Rhodes to understand that he would not be trifled with. Rhodes had been previously asked by Mr. Keisey how much the meters furnished by the department would cost, and Rhodes had said that he did not know. At the second interview he drew the price-list of the meters from his drawer. He found that he had met his match, for he was profuse in his apologies, saying that he had thought that Mr. Helsey was collecting evidence for the Committee on Water Meters. Mr. Keisey's meter was a good one, but he had no interest in it, and hence refused to have it set. Mr. Keisey then asked whether he could have the meter set by his pinniper. This Rhodes refused, as he had no confidence in Brooklyn plumbers in general. The meter would have to be set by Bryan. Accordingly, on May 21, 1873, two boys, about 17 and 18 years old, sent by Rhodes, came to set the meter. They

the bill, with a statement of his reasons for refusing to pay it, to Commissioner Whiting, asking to have it corrected. No notice seems to have been taken of the matter, however, as the bill was returned without change or explanation. Kelsey still refuses to pay and, if necessary, will contest the matter.

These are typical cases, showing how the Water Purveyor's office is made to gratify personal feeling or private profit. The plumbers of Brooklya, as a rule, are bitterly opposed to Rhodes on account of his instinuations and high-handed proceedings. The Committee on Water-meters and Stop-cocks, as has been stated, has refrained from making a report in spite of the strong testimony at their disposa. Public opinion, perhaps, will shame or frighten them into active measures.

NEW BUILDINGS IN PROGRESS.

THE WESTERN UNION BUILDING - THE DRY DOCK SAVINGS BANK - THE NEW FIFTH-AVE, PRESBY-TERIAN CHURCH.

Work on the new building of the Western Inion Telegraph Company is advancing rapidly. The walls of the seventh story are nearing completion, and it is expected that work on the roof, which starts from the seventh story, will begin in a fortnight, unless there should be a workingmen's strike or lock-out during this month. All the granite trusses below the clumns of the seventh story are set. There are nearly 5 men at work upon the building, including fron-men, masons, stone-setters, derrick-men, and others, beside a core of Frenchmen who are putting on a patented comsition for ceilings and walls, and 60 carpenters and 150 iron-workers who are preparing materials outside. All the partitions are up in four stories. Work was begun in September, 1872, and the time now set for comple-tion is October next. It was expected at first that the ouilding would be finished during this month or in Jane, out delay in getting the grante from Richmond checked progress. The Richmond quarry was flooded, and in the attempt to get out the great blocks for the State Departnent building at Washington, which weigh 20 tons each, at the same time with blocks for the Western Union building, the heaviest of which are 115 tons in weight, there was some splitting of valuable blocks. The Government would not bear the delay thus caused, and took possesion of the quarry. About 8,000,000 bricks will be used in the construction. The walls of the first story are six eet ten inches thick in front, and four feet in the rear; in the seventh story the front wall is four feet ten in in thickness, while the rear wall is three feet. The foundations are 21 feet below the sidewalk level, and from the curb to the top of the tower will be 223 feet. The stairways are of iron, as are the floor beams; between the latter is brick arching, covered with fireproof composition, and the floors are laid with tiles and omposition. A change in the original plans by the addition of one and a half stories to the hight and of 22 feet to the size of the lot, has swelled the estimated cost to \$900,000. The new structure of the Dry Dock Savings Bank, af

he south-east corner of the Bowery and Third-st., has the walls and partitions of the first story in a forward state. The stone-work is somewhat elaborate. Ohld stone is used within and Nova Scotia stone outside. The original plans proposed to have the walls of brick above the first story, but it has been determined to have complete stone frontage on three sides, the eastern, north-ern, and western. The change involves an additional expense of nearly \$50,000. The present estimate of cost is \$290,000, but the contract for the heating apparatus is not yet given out. It was proposed to finish the edifice by the 1st of November, but it will now go over till the first of next year. Twenty-five men are laboring in that construction, and the number will be increased to 50 as soon as canal unvigation opens and the stone can be burried forward. The building is 72 feet wide and 104 feet I inches deep. On the Bowery front there will be two sto ries, a fine bank room 36 feet high and about 52 feet square, taking up the first story. Its ceiling will be in groined arches. In the section of the building back of the bank room there will be three stories. The massive vault, which is behind the bank room, is already built. The structure will be dre-proof, as the stairways will be of Dorchester stone, the cellings of brick arching between iron beams, and the floors of tiles and composition.

Work on the new Presbyterian Church at Fifth-ave.

nd Fifty-fifth-st .- that of the Rev. Dr. John Hall-has

and Fifty-fifth-st.—that of the Rev. Dr. John Hall—has advanced so far that the walls are nearly ready for the root. The beginning was made in February of last year, and the completion is expected next January. That architect, Carl Pfeiffer, has directed the construction and has now 30 men engaged at the spot, while 150 men in ail, including the stone-utters at Newark, are connected with the preparation and placing of the materials, which are the best North River brick, with fronts of Belleville stone and coping of arown and bing stone. The designs were chosen from places furnished by several leading architects of the city in competition. The architect has almed to produce a building which should provide an auditorium with the best facilities for seeing and hearing and which should be substantial, digwater used. In the case of a livery stable the charge was put down as so much per horse. The bill for 1572-3 of Mr. Wood, a livery-stable keeper on Myrtie-aver, more properties. The bill in this case amounts of 1849 13, and Mr. Wood paid it in advance in May, 157, in July of the same year a plumber came to his stables and said that he had been sent by Rhodes to put a water-meter on the premises. After came to his stables and said that he had been sent by Rhodes to put a water-meter on the premises. After came to his stables and said that he had been sent by Rhodes to put a water-meter on the premises. After came to his stables and said that he had paid his water rate in advance, and that there remained seven months before the time for which he had paid would expire. Rhodes got very angry and said that the Hader had his water rate in the premained seven ments before the time for which he had paid would expire. Rhodes got very angry and said that the Hader had he was the present that the same part of the same year. The second meter any probably fully aware long before. He told Mr. Wood, the law wont, became highly indignant at learning the state or affairs of which was probably fully aware long before. He told Mr. Wood in the count of the water from his premises. After the short of the same year to to the imposition of the water from his premises. After the short of the water were cut off, he was oblicated to give way. The meter was set and a bill for \$81 86 sent in, which Mr. Wood and the work would not were the store that the sum of the manufacture of the water was the store of the same year. The bit and the told the water form the form the first and the manufacture of the water was the store of the water was the proposition of the water for his water for the proposition of the water utiled and ecclesiastical in architecture, while avoiding the acoustic and auditory detects of churches, which are based on too strict adherence to the medieval for with naves, aisles, etc. The site of the church is rec door to the center of the coved cening. The ears of the control in auditorium are semi-circular corresponding to the rounded lines of the galleries and the curves in which rounded lines of the galleries and the curves in which rounded lines of the galleries and the curves in which rounded lines of the galleries and the curves in which the scats are arranged; so that all may command a direct view of the pulpit at the western end. The ground floor and galleries will also be inclined for the same reason, following nearly the form of the "pacomatic curve" which, as has been demonstrated by Scott Rassell and others, is the best form for the purpose. Over the pulpit platform will be an elaborate canopy and above a space for the precentor and cheir with a platform and recess for a large organ. Except light columns beneath the gallery there are no obstructions to the view in any part of the auditorium. The celling is to be formed in three curves with rounded ends conforming to the curves of the wails. Together with most of the internal inlings it will be of wood, handsomely finished in modeled grothing ribs, carved bosses and brackets. Light comes through six high windows, adorned with tracery, over the galleries, on each side of the internal inlings it will be of wood, handsomely finished in modeled grothing ribs, carved bosses and brackets. Light comes through six high windows, of illumination. All the windows will se double to keep out external sounds. Between the two surfaces of glass will be placed the gas-jets for lighting the church will be placed the gas-jets for lighting the church as might and in this way the combustion will not vitiate the air, as flues will lead into and from the spaces centaining the lights of 25 feet. This has afforded to the property of the curve of the wait is an additional will have scats for 2,000 people. Behind this there is a chapel or lecture-from it feet long and 44 feet wide, with a hight of 25 feet. This has afforded in the cover of the wait of the curve of the wait of the curve

will be pollated ash, excellently carryed and decoraced. The main auditorium will have seats for 2,000 people. Behind this there is a chapel or lecture-room 73 feet long and 44 feet wide, with a hight of 25 feet. This has at one side a gallery and two spacious church pariors, which can be thrown into connection with the chapel, altogether giving accommodation to 750 persons. There is also a trustees' room and a minister's study. Over the chapel is a school-room of about the same dimensions as the chapel; this will have a range of classrooms, pariors, and a library-room in connection, which can be thrown together when required. There are apartments for a jantor in the top story of the building. The Fifth-ave, front will have at each corner a tower. That at the south-east angle is 36 feet square at the base without the buttresses, and will rise with its spire to a highl of 300 feet from the sidewalk, is feet higher than trinity spire. The lofty ground on which the church stands helps to make this much the highest church spire in the city. Upon this tower, at a high of about so feet from the ground, there will be clock-dials five feet in diameter. The tower at the north-east corner of the church will be about 160 feet high, and between the two there is a large window heartlife, with tracery. The churen will be about 160 feet high, and between the two there is a large window, beautiful with tracery. The roof of the main building will have an angle of \$60, and will be made of wood and slate. The roofs of the towers will be stone, iron, and slate. The external cornices will be of stone and galvanized iron. The Fitty-fithest, side of the church will correspond to the front, the details being carried out faithfully after the best types of tighthe architecture in the fourteenth century. There of Gothic architecture in the fourteenth century. There is a basement under the whole building, in which there are remarkably complete arrangements for heating and ventilation, distributing and extracting flues being carried up in the walls and towers.